

conflict that you did not ask for and that he could have prevented. Every time he has summoned Serbia's history as a justification for such action, he has imperiled your future. Hopefully, he will realize that his present course is unsustainable; ultimately, it is self-destructive.

The sooner we find a peaceful resolution of this dispute, preserving Kosovo within Serbia while guaranteeing the rights of its people under your law, the sooner Serbia can join the rest of Europe and build a nation that gives all its citizens a voice and a chance at prosperity.

The NATO nations have tried to avert this conflict through every means we knew to be available. Each of us has ties to Serbia. Each respects the dignity and the courage of the Serb people. In the end we decided that the dangers of acting are outweighed by the dangers of allowing this conflict to continue, to worsen, to claim the lives of more innocent civilians, including children, to result in tens of thousands of more homeless refugees.

Now all of us—Americans, Europeans, Serbs, Kosovars—must join together to stop driving wedges between people simply because they belong to different ethnic groups and to start accepting that our differences are less important than our common humanity and our common aspirations.

I call on all Serbs and all people of goodwill to join with us in seeking an end to this needless and avoidable conflict. Instead, let us work together to restore Serbia to its rightful place as a great nation of Europe; included, not isolated, by the world community; respected by all nations for having the strength to build peace.

NOTE: The address was videotaped at approximately 7:30 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room for later broadcast on the United States Information Agency Worldnet. In his remarks, he referred to President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). A tape was not available for verification of the content of this address.

Statement on Congressional Action on the Republican Budget Proposal March 25, 1999

The budget that congressional Republicans passed today is a series of missed opportunities. It fails to lock in debt reduction, fails to extend the solvency of Social Security and Medicare, and fails to protect key investments for the American people—from Head Start to clean water and law enforcement. While this budget marks a reversal from last year's failed effort by Republicans to drain the entire surplus for a tax cut, it still does not do enough to pay down the debt and strengthen Social Security and Medicare.

This year, we have a unique opportunity to build on our success by passing a fiscally disciplined budget that pays down the debt, strengthens Social Security, shores up Medicare, and protects key investments in our children, the environment, and law enforcement. I am committed to accomplishing these goals to give the American people a budget that prepares for the future.

Proclamation 7176—Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 1999 March 25, 1999

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Our Nation was founded at a time of extraordinary change, as the world began to move from an agrarian to an industrial economy. Today, as we approach the 21st century, exciting innovations in science and technology are revolutionizing our society, and once again Americans must adapt to the demands of a new era. Beckoning us with exciting new challenges and far-reaching opportunities, our future depends as never before on our Nation's commitment to excellence in education.

Americans have met the dynamic changes in our society not only through education but also by finding strength in our shared goals

and values. And, as we prepare for the challenges of a new millennium, these time-honored principles must remain an important part of our children's education. Far more than the accumulation of facts and figures, a well-rounded education that will serve our children throughout their lives must also include the wisdom and insights of past generations. Family members, teachers, administrators, and neighbors should share their experiences and ideals with young people to help them develop into mature, confident, and responsible adults.

An esteemed scholar and inspired religious leader, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, devoted his life to empowering young people through education. His belief in the importance of intellectual and spiritual enlightenment led him to establish more than 2,000 educational and social institutions around the world. Promoting faith, family, and community, his work enriched our society and helped to lay the foundation for our continued progress.

On this day and throughout the year, let us rededicate ourselves to the ideals of education and sharing that were championed by Rabbi Schneerson and are embraced by compassionate leaders across our country. As our society continues to change and evolve, let us work with keen minds and warm hearts to forge a future of peace and prosperity for all our children.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 28, 1999, as Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A. I invite Government officials, educators, volunteers, and all of the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate activities, programs, and ceremonies.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 29, 1999]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 30.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting the Report on the Strategic Concept of NATO

March 25, 1999

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with Condition (1)(D) of the resolution of advice and consent to the ratification of the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, adopted by the United States Senate on April 30, 1998, I transmit herewith the attached unclassified report to the Congress on the Strategic Concept of NATO.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

Executive Order 13115— Interagency Task Force on the Roles and Missions of the United States Coast Guard

March 25, 1999

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. (a) The Interagency Task Force on the Roles and Missions of the United States Coast Guard is established.

(b) The Task Force shall be composed of one representative from the:

- (1) Department of State;
- (2) Department of Defense;
- (3) Department of Justice;
- (4) Department of Commerce;
- (5) Department of Labor;
- (6) Department of Transportation;
- (7) Environmental Protection Agency;
- (8) Office of Management and Budget;
- (9) National Security Council;
- (10) Council on Environmental Quality;
- (11) Office of Cabinet Affairs;
- (12) National Economic Council;